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**GOVERNOR O'MALLEY ANNOUNCES MARYLAND'S HOME PERFORMANCE
REBATE LEVERAGES \$2 MILLION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT**

Program exceeds expectations; MEA authorizes \$500,000 in additional funding

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND (June 16, 2011) – Governor O'Malley announced today that the popular Home Performance Rebate program, launched January 20, 2011, exceeded expectations by spurring \$2 million of private investment in home energy efficiency upgrades in just five months. In recognition of the program's success, MEA has authorized an additional \$500,000 in funding – enough to drive more than \$900,000 in additional investment in energy efficient home improvements.

"Today's announcement is proof that the smart investments we've made over the last five years have yielded real results for Marylanders," said Governor O'Malley. "By investing in home energy efficiency, we have stimulated millions of dollars in private investment in our growing innovation economy and made real progress towards achieving our goal of reducing Maryland's energy consumption by 15 percent by 2015."

The program offers a 35% rebate (up to \$3,100 total) toward qualifying home efficiency upgrades. When combined with the existing utility-sponsored rebates of 15% off the cost of qualifying home efficiency upgrades, Marylanders are able to reduce the cost of upgrading their homes by as much as half. To date, nearly 700 Marylanders have participated in the program – which is funded entirely by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – with an average rebate of \$1,514.

"The Home Performance Program is a terrific program that instantly made my house more comfortable and cut my energy bills," said Dan Seligman, a resident of Takoma Park who benefitted from the program. "My house was an oven until we had new insulation and air sealing done earlier this month. It was immediately 10 degrees cooler throughout the house. We could not have gone forward without this great program and we appreciate the Governor's leadership on helping us improve our home."

The Home Performance Rebate program can be used to hire a Maryland Home Performance contractor to complete a number of qualifying home energy efficiency upgrades, including: whole-house air sealing; duct replacement; and insulation of walls, attics, crawl spaces, and basements. Each of these upgrades will help to keep homes more comfortable in extreme weather, and save homeowners money by lowering their energy bills throughout the life of the investment.

In addition to the up to 50% rebate, individuals who need assistance in financing a home energy efficiency investment may be able to take advantage of unsecured home energy improvement loans for up to \$20,000 at 6.99%. The loans are being offered Maryland Energy Administration and Maryland Clean Energy Center, and help alleviate the up-front costs associated with whole-house energy efficiency upgrades.

"By taking advantage of these rebates, Marylanders have made their homes more comfortable, saved money, and helped keep our state Smart, Green, and Growing," said Malcolm Woolf, Director of the Maryland Energy

Administration. "I'm thrilled that we're able to redirect an additional \$500,000 into this extraordinary program, and hope that anyone who has been considering making an investment in their homes will take advantage of this limited opportunity."

To apply for a rebate, residents should visit www.energy.state.md.us/homeperformance to complete the requisite forms. Homeowners can find participating contractors at www.mdhomeperformance.org.

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